



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**MANCHESTER MAN SENTENCED FOR USING FALSE SOCIAL  
SECURITY NUMBER TO GET SECURITY CARD AT MANCHESTER AIRPORT**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono reports that 29-year-old Jorge Rodas of 556 Chestnut Street in Manchester, was sentenced in U.S. District Court today to 1 year of probation and fifty hours of community service for using a false social security number on an application for credentials giving him access to the Secure Identification Display Area of Manchester Airport.

In May 2001, Rodas, who is a citizen of Guatemala, filled out an airport security badge application in connection with his employment as a dishwasher at the Milltowne Grille at the Manchester Airport. To obtain a security badge, Rodas, who had never been issued a social security number, used a false social security number on the application. Although he was issued a security badge giving him access to some areas of the airport, he did not have clearance to enter secure or highly sensitive areas of the airport. On April 14, 2003, Rodas pled guilty to using a false social security number on the application.

Rodas was charged as part of a joint federal initiative called Operation Safe Travel conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the Department of Homeland Security (formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service) and the Inspector General's Offices for the Social Security Administration and the Department of Transportation. This 7-month-long investigation focused on individuals who had misrepresented their backgrounds in order to obtain employment and security clearances with various companies with operations at Manchester Airport.

The investigation at Manchester Airport showed that security procedures for screening employees were effective. Investigators discovered only a few employees who misrepresented their backgrounds in order to obtain employment or security clearances. None of the persons charged, including Rodas, is believed to have caused any risk to the flying public.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark S. Zuckerman.